

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4141
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OREP (PRICE, MELVIN)

SUBJ: CODEL PRICE - CHURCH SERVICES

1. IN VIEW OF CODEL'S VISIT TO LENINGRAD DURING EASTER WEEKEND, WE ARE PROVIDING FOLLOWING DATA ON LENINGRAD CHURCH SERVICES. WE WOULD NOTE THAT LENINGRAD HAS ONLY ONE CATHOLIC AND ONE BAPTIST CHURCH. RUSSIAN ORTHODOX EASTER, OF COURSE, FALLS ON APRIL 30, BUT THERE ARE NORMAL SUNDAY SERVICES ON MARCH 26 WHICH COULD BE ATTENDED IF DESIRED.

2. THE SCHEDULE FOR RELIGIOUS SERVICES SUNDAY, MARCH 26 IS AS FOLLOWS: A) THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WILL HAVE EASTER CELEBRATIONS AT 8:00 A.M., 11:30 A.M. AND 7:00 P.M.; B) THE BAPTIST CHURCH HAS REGULAR SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:00 A.M., 2:00 P.M. AND 6:00 P.M.--THE BAPTIST EASTER SERVICE WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 30, RUSSIAN ORTHODOX EASTER; C) NORMAL SUNDAY RUSSIAN ORTHODOX SERVICES AT THE NIKOLSKIY CHURCH ARE AT 7:00 A.M. AND 10:00 A.M..

3. WE EMPHASIZE THAT ONLY THE CATHOLIC CHURCH WILL BE CELEBRATING EASTER ON MARCH 26TH. BOTH THE BAPTIST CHURCH AND THE RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH ARE FOLLOWING THE OLD RUSSIAN CALENDAR.

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4. THE CONSULATE WILL ASSIST WITH TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS FOR ANYONE WISHING TO ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES, BUT WE WILL NEED TO KNOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE HOW MANY PERSONS WISH TO ATTEND EACH CHURCH AND THEIR TIME PREFERENCES FOR SERVICES.

5. THE CODEL ARRIVES TOO LATE FOR SABBATH SERVICES ON
MARCH 25 AT LENINGRAD'S SYNOGOGUE, THE LAST OF WHICH IS
HELD AT 1:00 P.M. BUCHANAN

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